



H.R. 5449: PASSENGER RAIL REFORM AND INVESTMENT ACT OF 2014 HIGHLIGHTS

Passenger Rail plays an important role in our Nation's transportation network. There is simply no better way to move large numbers of people from city-center to city-center than on passenger rail. PRRIA 2014 improves our rail infrastructure, reduces costs, leverages private sector resources, creates greater accountability and transparency for Amtrak, and accelerates project delivery.

Reforms Amtrak to Increase Transparency, Reduce Costs, and Operate More Like a Business

- Authorizes Amtrak at fiscally responsible, recently appropriated funding levels
- Eliminates Amtrak's losses in food and beverage service
- Mandates Amtrak carry out a business case analysis for all major procurements
- Eliminates Amtrak's black-box accounting and requires transparent bookkeeping aligned with core service functions

Leverages Resources and Encourages Non-Federal Participation

- Creates station development opportunities for the private sector
- Opens new revenue streams through right-of-way development
- Unlocks an underutilized federal railroad loan program
- Assists with advancing large infrastructure projects through partnerships with states

Targets Investments Where There is the Greatest Potential for Success

- Keeps Northeast Corridor profits on the Northeast Corridor
- Improves management of the Northeast Corridor
- Incentivizes increased Northeast Corridor investments

Empowers States to Have a Greater Role in Managing Routes

- Ensures states are equal partners, giving them a greater say in decision making to ensure passengers get the best service
- Strengthens transparency to give states and Congress greater insight into Amtrak's accounting to identify areas for improvement
- Requires Amtrak to evaluate long-distance routes, improve services, and lower costs

Streamlines Environmental Reviews and Accelerates Project Delivery

- Sets hard deadlines to reasonably limit review times
- Requires reviews to occur concurrently rather than consecutively
- Improves coordination among federal, state, and local agencies involved in the reviews